

REMARKS

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 AND 372

Requirement For Restriction

The Examiner has required that prosecution of the subject case be restricted to one of the following inventions: Group I, claims 1, 4-7, drawn to functional polymers; Group II, claims 2, 8, 12, and 14, drawn to a method for preparing functional polymer; or Group III, claims 3, 9-11, 13, and 15, drawn to a method for preparing cured tire component.

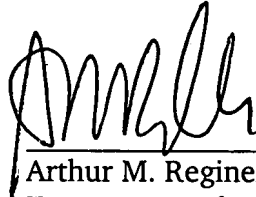
In an effort to further prosecution at this time, the Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to prosecute Group I, claims 1, 4-7, drawn to functional polymers.

With respect to the traversal of the Restriction Requirement, Applicants note that the International Search Report referred to by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office action was issued in view of an original set of claims that were amended by way of an Article 34 amendment after issuance of the Search Report. In view of that amended set of claims, an International Preliminary Examination Report was issued wherein the International Preliminary Examining Authority found that the claims satisfied requirements of novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability. Furthermore, no lack of unity of invention was found. On this basis, Applicants do not believe that the Restriction Requirement is proper. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report has been attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

CONCLUSION

No new fees are believed due at this time. Nonetheless, in the event that a fee required for the filing of this document is missing or insufficient, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0925.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR M Reginelli', is written over a horizontal line.

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